

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10762 011443Z
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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: GK REDDY ON VISIT TO INDIA OF DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY
JOSEPH NYE

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY FROM MADRAS
JUL 30 IS REPEATED

QUOTE
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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, IN, US
SUBJECT: G.K. REDDY ON VISIT TO INDIA OF DEPUTY UNDER-
SECRETARY JOSEPH NYE

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF G.K. REDDY ARTICLE TITLED
"TALKSON NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS: U.S. OFFICIAL COMING" APPEARING
IN JULY 30 HINDU:

QUOTE:

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NEW DELHI, JULY 29.

THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT'S TOP NEGOTIATOR ON NUCLEAR AFFAIRS
MR. JOSEPH NYE, IS ARRIVING ON SUNDAY FOR TALKS WITH THE
GOVERNMENT ON INDIA ON WHAT ARE DESCRIBED AS "FULL SCOPE"
SAFEGUARDS ON THE USES OF THEENRICHED URANIUM FUEL SUPPLIED
FOR THTARAPUR ATOMIC POWER PLANT.

AS DEPUTY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MR. NYE IS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE COMPLEX MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL TALKS THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS NOW CONDUCTING WITH THE SUPPLIER AND USER NATIONS OF NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS TO PREVENT PROLIFERATION.

AFTER ATTENDING A MEETING OF THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS IN PARIS, MR. NYE ARRIVED IN ISLAMABAD ON WEDNESDAY FOR TALKS WITH THE NEW MILITARY REGIME TO DISCOURAGE PAKISTAN FROM GOING AHEAD WITH ITS PLANS TO ACQUIRE A REPROCESSING PLANT FROM FRANCE. HE IS COMING IN DELHI ON SUNDAY ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY, MR. CHARLES VAN DOREN, AND THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, MR. NELSON SIEVERING, TO BEGIN THE DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIA ON THE PROPOSED CONTROLS ON ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAMME.

THOUGH MR. NYE AND HIS TWO ASSOCIATES WILL BE IN INDIA UNTIL NEXT THURSDAY WHEN THEY ARE DUE TO FLY BACK TO THE UNITED STATES, THE TALKS IN DELHI ON THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM WILL CONCLUDE ON MONDAY ITSELF AFTER JUST TWO ROUNDS OF DISCUSSIONS, BEFORE THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS LEAVE FOR BOMBAY THE NEXT DAY FOR FOLLOW-UP TECHNICAL EXCHANGES WITH DR. H.N. SETHNA, DR. RAJA RAMANNA AND OTHERS WHO HEAD THE INDIAN UNCLASSIFIED

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ATOMIC RESEARCH ORGANISATION. THEY GO TO TARAPUR ON WEDNESDAY FOR AN ON THE -SPOT REVIEW OF THE SAFEGUARD ARRANGEMENTS AND RETURN TO BOMBAY THE NEXT DAY TO TAKE THE FLIGHT TO WASHINGTON.

IT IS QUITE EVIDENT FROM THIS TIGHT SCHEDULE THAT THESE TALKS ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE ANY MORE THAN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS FOR GETTING A CLEAR IDEA OF THEIR RESPECTIVE POLITICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO THIS WHOLE QUESTION OF "FULL SCOPE" SAFEGUARDS ON NOT ONLY THE USES OF THE U.S. SUPPLIED ENRICHED URANIUM, BUT ALSO THE WHOLE RANGE OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAMME TO PREVENT THE POSSIBLE DIVERSION OF FISSIONABLE MATERIALS LIKE PLUTONIUM DERIVED FROM THE WASTE FUEL ELEMENTS. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THESE TALKS IS TO PREPARE THE GROUND FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS IN DUE COURSE AT THE HIGHER POLITICAL LEVELS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

THESE TALKS AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL WITH MR. NYE AND HIS ASSOCIATES WILL BE CONDUCTED IN DELHI BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MR. V. SHANKAR, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR. J.S. MEHTA, AND THE SECRETARY IN THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY DEALING WITH NUCLEAR ISSUES, MR. M.A. VELLODI WHO

IS A SPECIALIST ON THE SUBJECT. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, DR. H.N. SETHNA, WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATIONS DURING THESE TALKS IN DELHI IF THERE IS NEED FOR IT. THE MAIN TECHNICAL TALKS WILL, HOWEVER, TAKE PLACE IN BOMBAY AND IN TARAPUR ITSELF FOR DETAILED EXCHANGES ON THE FULL EXTENT AND WIDER IMPLICATIONS OF THE U.S. MOVE FOR STRICTER CONTROLS ON INDIA'S NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT.

THESE TALKS ARE TO BE CONDUCTED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NUCLEAR POLICY SPelt OUT RECENTLY BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. MORARJI DEEAI, WHICH THE U.S. HAS ACCEPTED AS A GOOD BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. BUT IT DOES NOT MAKE THE TASK OF THE NEGOTIATORS ANY EASIER IN DEFINING THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SO-CALLED FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS THAT ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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BOUND TO RESTRICT IN ONE FORM OR THE OTHER INDIA'S SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO DEVELOP ITS CAPACITY FOR UTILISING NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. AFTER THE U.S. AMBASSADOR, MR. ROBERT GOHEEN, HAD BROACHED THE SUBJECT WHEN HE CALLED ON MR. SAI FOR THE FIRST TIME IN EARLY JUN, MR. NYE HAD A MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR. J.S. MEHTA, DURING THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN LONDON. THE TWO SIDES HAVE THUS A PRETTY CLEAR IDEA OF EACH OTHER'S GENERAL THINKING ON THIS WHOLE QUESTION OF NON-PROLIFERATION.

APART FROM THE NEED TO KEEP UP THE CONTINUITY OF SUPPLY OF THE ENRICHED URANIUM FOR THE TARAPUR POWER STATION, PENDING A FINAL UNDERSTANDING ON THE COMPLEXITIES OF TIGHTER CONTROLS AND SUSPENSION, A MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM RELATES TO THE DISPOSAL OF THE ACCUMULATED NUCLEAR WASTES AT THE SITE OF THIS PLANT. THE U.S. IS SUGGESTING AN EXPANSION OF THE STORAGE TANK TO ACCOMMODATE THE EXTRA WASTES, UNTIL THE QUESTION OF DISPOSAL HAS BEEN SATISFACTORILY SETTLED BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AS PART OF A WIDER UNDERSTANDING COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF NON-PROLIFERATION. THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT ON TARAPUR PROVIDED FOR AN INDIAN-BUILT REPROCESSING PLANT AT THE SITE TO EXTRACT PLUTONIUM FROM THE SPENT URANIUM FUEL, SO THAT A PART OF IT COULD BE FED BACK INTO THE REACTORS AS PART OF THE NEW FUEL ELEMENTS AND THE REST SOLD TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE INDIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION SUBMITTED THE DETAILED DESIGNS A FEW YEARS BACK AND OBTAINED THE APPROVAL OF THE CONCERNED U.S. GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY FOR BUILDING THIS REPROCESSING UNIT. BUT BEFORE THE PLANT COULD BE PUT INTO OPERATION, INDIA HAD THE OBLIGATION UNDER THE AGREEMENT TO OBTAIN

FORMAL PERMISSION FROM THE U.S. FOR COMMENCING THE REPROCESSING
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OF THESE NUCLEAR WASTES WHICH ARE TECHNICALLY THE PROPERTY OF THE U.S. IT HAS BEEN HOLDING BACK THIS PERMISSION, WHILE SUGGESTING VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE ACCUMULATED WASTES INCLUDING THEIR SHIPMENT BACK TO THE U.S. FOR REPROCESSING THEM ON BEHALF OF INDIA AS A COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION.

WHAT THE U.S. IS AIMING AT IS A COMPLETE RESTRICTION ON INDIA'S CAPACITY TO ENRICH NATURAL URANIUM OR REPROCESS THE SPENT FUELS TO EXTRACT PLUTONIUM THAT CAN BE USED FOR NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS. IT WANTS TO GAIN TIME FOR MASTERING WHAT IS CALLED THE "CO-PROCESSING" TECHNOLOGY THAT CAN PRODUCE LOWER GRADE PLUTONIUM THAT IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR POWER PLANTS BUT NOT SUFFICIENTLY PURE FOR NUCLEAR TESTS. THE TALKS IN DELHI NEXT WEEK ARE ABOUT ONLY HOLDING OPERATION UNTIL THE TWO SIDES ARE READY TO EMBARK ON THE NEXT STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH COULD TAKE PLACE LATER THIS YEAR WHEN THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. CYRUS VANCE, VISITS DELHI. UNQUOTE. SCOTT

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